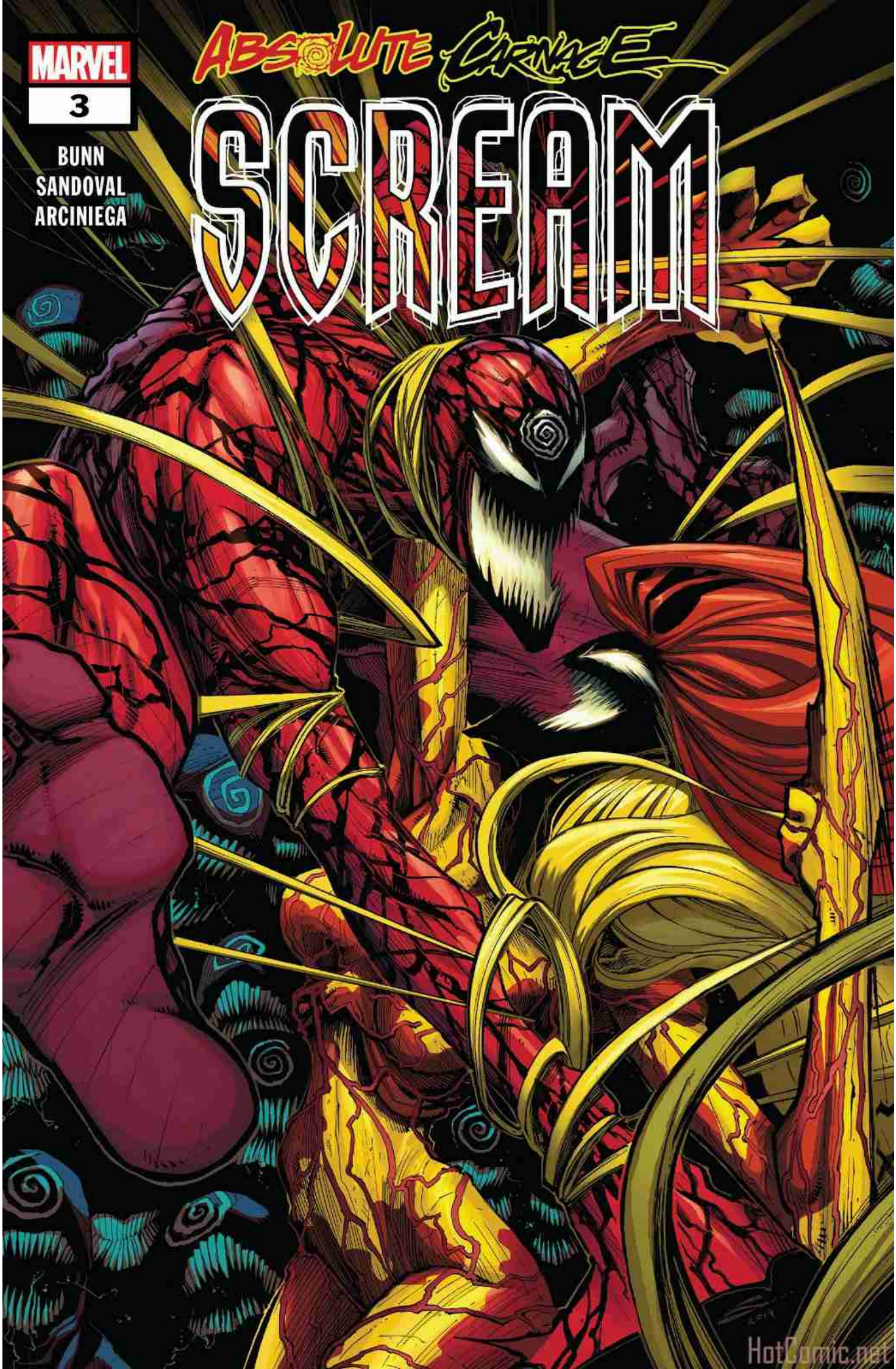

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YEARS AGO, THE LIFE FOUNDATION–A DANGEROUS CONGLOMERATE THAT, FOR A TIME, FOCUSED ITS EFFORTS ON DESTROYING SPIDER-MAN–CAPTURED THE VENOM SYMBIOTE AND FORCED IT TO SPAWN FIVE OFFSPRING: SCREAM, LASHER, RIOT, AGONY AND PHAGE.

PATRICIA ROBERTSON, THE FORMER HOST OF THE MANIA SYMBIOTE, HAS BONDED WITH THE SCREAM SYMBIOTE. AFTER TEMPORARILY FREEING HERSELF FROM THE INFLUENCE OF THE SPIRAL OF KNULL, SCREAM REFUSED TO KILL ANDI BENTON, ANOTHER FORMER HOST OF THE MANIA SYMBIOTE. DESPITE THEIR ROUGH INTRODUCTION, SCREAM AND ANDI TEAMED UP TO PUT UP SOME RESISTANCE TO CARNAGE'S RAMPAGE. PATRICIA STRUGGLES WITH THE CALL OF KNULL AS CARNAGE ARRIVES ON THE SCENE FOR ANDI!

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE

SCREAM

CULLEN BUNN WRITER GERARDO SANDOVAL ARTIST

ERICK ARCINIEGA COLOR ARTIST VC's CORY PETIT LETTERER

GERARDO SANDOVAL & JASON KEITH COVER ARTISTS

GERARDO SANDOVAL & JASON KEITH [CODEX];
MARK BAGLEY, JOHN DELL & MORRY HOLLOWELL [CONNECTING] VARIANT COVER ARTISTS

ADAM DEL RE
LOGO DESIGN

DANNY KHAZEM
ASSISTANT EDITOR

DEVIN LEWIS
EDITOR

NICK LOWE
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

C.B. CEBULSKI
EDITOR IN CHIEF

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CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER

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BOO.
I KNOW. I KNOW.
YOU LADIES MUST'VE THOUGHT I WAS TOO BUSY TO COME A-CALLIN' MYSELF.
BUT I MAKE TIME FOR WHAT'S IMPORTANT.
AND MURDERIN' YOU, GIRLIE...
...THAT'S WAY UP THERE ON MY BUCKET LIST!
SCREAM--
HIS!
WE BELONG TO HIM!

NO!
WELL?
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
FETCH!
HSSSSSSSS!
BRING ANDI BENTON BACK TO ME.
BRING HER BACK...
...SO WE CAN FEED THE BEAST.

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HOW THE HELL DO I GET OUT OF THIS?
LOOKS LIKE THE EMPLOYEES CLEARED OUT IN A HURRY.
NO TELLING IF MORE OF CARNAGE'S DEMONS ARE LURKING AROUND.
JUST NEED TO FIND A PLACE TO KEEP MY HEAD DOWN.
UNTIL I CAN FIGURE OUT--
--A HAIL MARY.

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SHE THINKS SHE CAN RUN.
SHE THINKS SHE CAN HIDE.
SKREEAAK
BUT SHE WILL NOT ESCAPE.
THE TITHE WILL NOT BE DENIED.
IT IS THE COST SHE ACCEPTED WHEN SHE FIRST BONDED WITH A SYMBIOTE.
SHE IS JUST MEAT.

WE ARE ALL JUST--
SCREAM, PLEASE.
I KNOW WHAT CARNAGE DID TO YOU, TO DONNA.
BROUGHT YOU BACK FROM THE DEAD...
DONNA...
...BUT YOU HAVE TO FIGHT HIM.
BECAUSE ONCE CARNAGE KILLS ANDI BENTON, HE'LL COME FOR US NEXT.
VOICES!
SO MANY!
YOU CAN BE DECENT!
NOT A MONSTER!
DON'T LISTEN TO HIM!
LISTEN TO ME. I AM PATRICIA ROBERTSON, AND WE ARE SCREAM.
REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE!
REMEMBER WHO WE ARE!
DON'T DIE WITH NIGHTMARES STILL IN YOUR HEAD!
SCREAMING IN OUR HEAD!
VOICES TELLING US WHAT TO DO.
TELLING US WHO TO BE.
YEAH
AAAGH!
SO MANY VOICES-- AND ALL OF THEM OURS!

YEEAAARGH!
SHE'S HERE.
SHE'S FOUND ME.
NEED A WAY OUT.
BEFORE SHE--
WHO'RE YOU TALKING TO, GIRLIE?
STILL FEEL LIKE YOU'VE GOT A PARTNER?
FEELIN' ALL ALONE WITHOUT YOUR OTHER?
SOON, YOU'LL BE PART OF SOMETHIN' SO MUCH BIGGER.
YOU'LL BE PART OF ME.
THAT'S WHY I CAME FOR YOU MYSELF--TO GRANT YOU MERCY.
BESIDES--NEVER SEND A WOMAN TO DO A MAN'S WORK.
G-GREAT.
NOT ONLY ARE YOU A REDNECK SERIAL KILLER...
...Y-YOU'RE A SEXIST REDNECK SERIAL KILLER.
HEH--
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REEEAAARRGH!
HNNNF!
GET AWAY FROM HER!
YOU CAN'T HAVE HER!
I WON'T LET YOU!
I LIKE YOUR GRIT.
BIG BAD SCREAM. MY BIG BAD SISTER.
BUT YOU'RE JUST SOMETHING I DUG UP FROM THE DIRT.
YOU DON'T HAVE A SAY IN THE MATTER.
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I'LL KILL YOU!
BETTER'N YOU HAVE TRIED.
BUT I DON'T DIE EASY.
NOT LIKE YOUR FRIEND.
AND NOT LIKE YOU.
NOT
LIKE

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NOT YET!
THE SYMBIOTE KNITS MY WOUNDS TOGETHER.
HEALING ME.
TWO BEINGS, UNITED AS ONE, AND I--WE-- FEEL EVERYTHING.
POWER SURGING THOUGH MY MUSCLES.
AND I HEAR EVERYTHING, TOO. NOT JUST SCREAM, BUT DOZENS, HUNDREDS, OF VOICES. CARNAGE'S LEGION.
FAMILIAR.
BUT DIFFERENT.
AND BELOW IT ALL, I FEEL HIM. CARNAGE.
BECKONING ME.
BUT I DON'T LIKE DOING WHAT I'M TOLD.

FWOOOOOOSH!
BUT I'LL TEACH YOU SOMETHIN' ELSE IF YOU LIKE!
THOSE VOICES YOU'RE HEARIN'?
I HEAR THEM TOO!
NGYAA--
SLLLLSHH
THOUGHT YOU MIGHT HAVE LEARNED YOUR LESSON, GIRLIE!
THOSE FLAMES OF YOURS CAN'T HURT ME.
I'M SO FAR BEYOND FIRE NOW!
I KNOW, I KNOW. THIS IS A CONFUSIN' TIME.
ALL THOSE VOICES, AND YOU'RE NOT SURE WHERE THEY'RE COMING FROM.
BUT THE ONES THAT ARE TELLING YOU TO RUN--THOSE ARE ALL YOURS.
AND THE VOICE TELLING YOU TO STAY--
--THAT'S ME!
*AFTER THEY MET BACK IN JULY'S WEB OF VENOM: FUNERAL PYRE, TRUE BELIEVERS! -EDITOR
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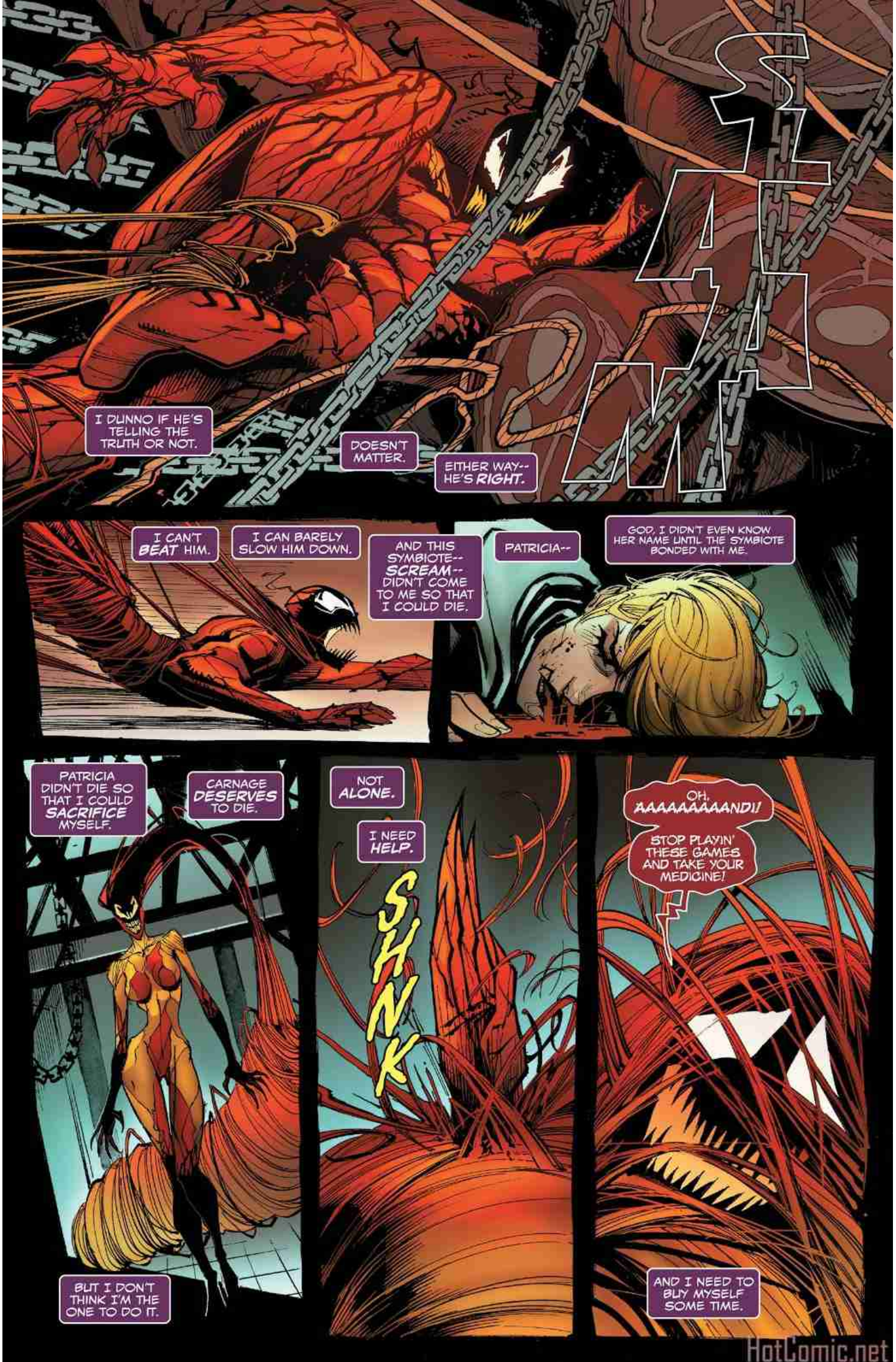
I DUNNO IF HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH OR NOT.
DOESN'T MATTER.
EITHER WAY-- HE'S RIGHT.
I CAN'T BEAT HIM.
I CAN BARELY SLOW HIM DOWN.
AND THIS SYMBIOTE-- SCREAM-- DIDN'T COME TO ME SO THAT I COULD DIE.
PATRICIA--
GOD, I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW HER NAME UNTIL THE SYMBIOTE BONDED WITH ME.
PATRICIA DIDN'T DIE SO THAT I COULD SACRIFICE MYSELF.
CARNAGE DESERVES TO DIE.
BUT I DON'T THINK I'M THE ONE TO DO IT.
NOT ALONE.
I NEED HELP.
SHNK
OH, AAAAAAAAAND!
STOP PLAYIN' THESE GAMES AND TAKE YOUR MEDICINE!
AND I NEED TO BUY MYSELF SOME TIME.
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BUY MYSELF A HEAD START.
WHUMP
EVEN A FEW SECONDS.
AND THEN START RUNNING.
RUN.
KRA-SMASH
GUESS OUR DANCE AIN'T OVER JUST YET, IS IT, SWEET THING?
OUR TIME WILL COME.
AND I'VE GOT ANOTHER CODEX TO HARVEST FROM THE DEAD.
AND DON'T STOP.

NOT UNTIL I...
...UNTIL WE...
...FIND OTHERS WHO CAN HELP...
...BECAUSE IF THERE'S ONE THING WE'VE LEARNED...
...WHEN THE NIGHTMARES TAKE SHAPE AND COME AFTER YOU...
...IT'S JUST TOO MUCH OF A RISK...
...TO GO IT ALONE.

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Hello in here, out there, around the world and aboard all the ships at sea!

Veditor Devin Lewis reporting to you live and in print from Marvel HQ in the heart of New York!

As I write this, ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #3 is FINALLY on sale, and with it, Donny Cates, Ryan Stegman, JP Mayer, Frank Martin and Clayton Cowles have MADE HISTORY as the Immortal Hulk finally bonded to the one and only Venom symbiote.

But you already know that! After all, you've just read the tale of their titanic clash, and one thing is still true: CARNAGE RULES!

Enough gabbing from me, though. You Venomaniacs out there in Mighty Marveldom have been keeping up with ABSOLUTE CARNAGE each and every step of the way--and writing the letters to prove it! So let's get to 'em!

Dearest Cletus' Clubhouse Guardians,

Congrats again to Donny Cates, Ryan Stegman and all the lovelies involved with VENOM and ABSOLUTE CARNAGE for creating yet another exciting comic book ride. My first exposure to Mr. Cates was his incredible run on THANOS WINS, where he created my absolute fave new(ish?) character: Cosmic Ghost Rider. When I heard he was switching to VENOM next, only my absolute fave Marvel character of all time, I knew I had to get on board.

I must admit, at first I wasn't sure if I was on board with this whole Knull, god and creator of the symbiotes, but I kept my faith and hung around. The WEB OF VENOM one-offs were what really teased my curiosity as to where it was going and what excitement would ensue. Well, two issues deep into ABSOLUTE CARNAGE and I must consume it all. Between you guys and Hickman, I'm gonna need a second job...and it will be worth it. Thanks for all the good reads! Make Mine Murder and let Carnage paint the town red...'cuz, "listen, all you fools, don't you know that Carnage Rulez!"

Yours in slobber,
Raylo

Dear ABSOLUTE CARNAGE Creative Team,

I have to thank you guys. For the past few months, I sort of stopped reading comics. I had other things that required more immediate attention, notably school. Then, when I decided to finally go out to get some more comics, just a few hours ago, in fact, your series was the first one that caught my eye. I bought the first two issues and subsequently devoured them, looking over every detail. It is perfect. The artwork is gorgeous, highlighting each character's emotions and perfectly capturing the terror that is Carnage. The pacing of the story is grand, allowing time for character moments, while still giving us the action-packed symbiote fights that Venom, Spidey and other web-slingers' fans know and love. And, above all, it's terrifying, and I mean that in the best way possible.

About a week ago, I re-read AMAZING SPIDER-MAN's 300th issue, which, as you undoubtedly know, marked Venom's first appearance, and I was reminded of why everyone fell in love with the character. This comic book, as well as the VENOM series, are reminding me of why that character has resonated with me, and with so many other fans, I'm sure, while still managing to evolve him and make him into something new. That's no easy feat. So thank you. Thank you for everything you have done so far. May you continue to bring Carnage to the world. #carnagerules

Sincerely,
Ben R.

To everyone working on ABSOLUTE CARNAGE, the series so far is BRUTALITY AMAZING! I'm a new fan to comic books, just started picking them up right before WAR OF THE REALMS started, and I'm fortunate enough to be here for what seems to be the most metal event of all time! CARNAGE RULES!!!

Dan D.

Dear ABSOLUTE CARNAGE Team,

I'm just speechless with how amazing this whole event is turning out! So far every issue including the tie-ins are awesome in explaining the story. The art in ABSOLUTE CARNAGE is just stunning and in my opinion Stegman's best work yet! This story gets crazier and crazier and it feels like our heroes don't stand a chance at stopping Carnage. Just when you think our heroes are ahead of the game, Carnage is more ahead than them! Also that bomb being dropped of Dylan having a codex should make this event more exciting in upcoming issues. Can't wait to read the next issue and appreciate the work everyone has put in to make this happen!

Sincerely,
Steve

Greetings, Spidey-Office,

I just finished reading the first chapter of ABSOLUTE CARNAGE. I was beyond impressed with the story and art. I showed my kids the cover art of ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #1 and explained the plot and characters to them and their eyes just lit up. Their reactions reminded me of how I was when I read my first Spider-Man, Venom and Carnage comics over 25 years ago. My first introduction to Spider-Man, Venom and Carnage came from AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #375, VENOM: LETHAL PROTECTOR #1, *Wizard Magazine* #18 and SPIDER-MAN UNLIMITED #1 (1993 was a huge year for Spidey, Venom, and

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Carnage). The gorgeous art and larger-than-life characters captured my imagination. Few books have made me experience such excitement and intrigue as those books. I am overjoyed to say that ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #1 took me right back to those same feelings I had as a kid. Seeing Peter, Eddie, and Cletus and their colorful personalities front and center was a pleasure to behold. I wanted to say thank you for the fantastic job everyone does on these books and to keep up the outstanding work.

Sincerely a Very Grateful Spidey, Venom and Carnage fan,

Richard P.
Madison, AL

Hi, VENOM Team!

I'm pretty new to actually reading comics, and my senior copywriter suggested I start with VENOM #1. I'm four issues in and I'm insanely impressed with Donny Cates, Ryan and the rest of the team. It's a stunning book with a well-paced story so far and the tone is perfect (in my opinion) for a character as gray as Venom. Well done!

Loïs

Hey Team Venom,

Just finished ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #1 and was absolutely blown away. It's amazing that Venom debuted in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #300 all those years ago, yet he's still one of the best and most original characters ever created in comic book history. You guys did such a great job of making Venom an actual hero instead of just an antihero, and he still has this extremely rugged and tough edge to him. It's always fun to see Venom team up with Spidey ("Eddie...no killing") and you guys do a great job with their "friendship." The back-and-forth banter between Spider-Man and Venom is not only funny and poignant, but there seems to be a lot of trust between the two characters in this issue that is both different and unique. The artwork and coloring is beautiful, and the red really stands out! Cletus Kasady is a sadistic killer, and having him trying to spread the symbiote to other characters is a stroke of genius. I am holding ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #2 in my hand right now and cannot wait to start it. I look forward to this story and how it plays out over the next few months! Bravo!

Kevin from Boston

Hello to everyone at the Spidey-Office!

My name is Logan, and I have to say I am very impressed with the ABSOLUTE CARNAGE event and all its tie-ins. ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #1 was actually the first Venom comic I've ever read, and I loved every page. It was generally terrifying, and every page was easily some of the most visually appealing and creative art I've seen in a comic before. That one page with Cletus strutting down the hall in Ravencroft with all the patients there screaming sent shivers down my spine as I read it. I was also thoroughly disturbed and utterly amazed at the artwork in SEPARATION ANXIETY #1, the colors really popped out from the black-and-red background, and the attention to detail was jaw-dropping. The ABSOLUTE CARNAGE VS. DEADPOOL was hilarious too. Keep up the awesome work you guys are doing at the Spidey-Office!!!

With Sincere Fear,
Logan

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SCREAM #1 was a SCREAMing good time! Seeing both of my favorite girls, Andi and Scream, in one place blew me away! I'm so happy to see both of them back in action! This event is bring back so many underused characters! Thank you all so much for it! I can't wait for Scream's ongoing!

Alison C.

Dear Venom Team,

I've only been reading comics for a couple years now so I'm pretty new to the comics scene. However, one of the first books I picked up when I started reading was VENOMIZED #1. Such a great series and really what got me into Venom. When Donnie's VENOM #1 released I was hooked. I've picked up every issue since.

This ABSOLUTE CARNAGE run is LITERALLY BLOWING MY MIND. I've picked up multiple copies of each issue and tie-in to mail to my friends so that they're not missing out. I can't help but wonder what will happen if/when Knull is awakened. All the stuff going on in SILVER SURFER: BLACK has me questioning everything.

I am curious, is there any chance we might get to see Cosmic Ghost Rider in this amazing run? His crossing with Carnage at the end of CGDTM was one of my favorite couple pages I've ever read. Fingers crossed!

Carnage rules!

J. Shouse

Dear Venom office,

I just finished reading VENOM #18, and I love it. I am big fan of the symbiotes and I can't wait to see what happens next. I am also glad to see that the Life Foundation symbiotes are getting a bit of love, and I hope that they stay with their new hosts; I love their new designs. My favorite symbiote is Phage and I like his host too; please keep him around, he is awesome.

Also I want to say that I really like your art. Mr. Stegman, it is awesome.

I have only read ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #1 and the Symbiote Spider-Man crossover, but I instantly loved the series and can't wait for more Carnage. Carnage is one of my favorites so I knew I would love the series, but I didn't know I would love it this much!!! I am so happy to be able to read this series and can't wait for the chapters to come!!! But why did you choose to make a series about Carnage? What gave you the idea? CARNAGE RULES!!!

Hunter B.

PHEW!

What a load of lovely letters. Thanks so much for reading and for writing, everyone! And keep 'em coming! We've still got plenty of tricks up our sleeves as we head into November and the last lethal issue of ABSOLUTE CARNAGE!

Remember to tell your comic shop that you want the best, and the best is CARNAGE!

#CarnageRules

Stay sharp!
Devin
@edevinlewis

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ZONE